Special Economic Zones

1636. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had framed India specific rules and legislation for setting up Special Economic Zones;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government expects over Rs. 10,000 crores into these Special Economic Zones; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) The Special Economic Zones Act, 2005 (No. 28 of 2005) and the Special Economic Zones Rules, 2006 have come into force with effect from 10th February 2006.

(c) and (d) Investment of the order of Rs. 100,000 crores over the next 3 years in infrastructure development of the Special Economic Zones and in setting up of units therein has been estimated on the basis of the investment potential projected by the promoters of the Special Economic Zones at the time of seeking approval for establishment of SEZs by them.

Indo-Quebec Bilateral Trade

1637. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Quebec (Canada) is keen to attract Indian investment in their land;

(b) what is the current Indo-Quebec bilateral trade;

(c) whether certain Indian companies have shown interest in making investment there;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) Government's action-plan to give a boost to the bilateral trade between the two countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Bilateral trade figures in relation to the province of a country are not maintained.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) have reported that some Indian manufacturing companies like Jyoti Structure Ltd., Tata Steel, Brakes India etc. have shown interest in Quebec.

(e) Some of the steps taken to boost bilateral trade between India and Canada *inter-alia* include the promotion of sector, event and investment specific visits of Canadian delegations to India, conducting market surveys on products of interest to our exporters, facilitating our trade promotion bodies to arrange buyer-seller meets and participate in trade fairs/exhibitions in Canada etc.

AEZ for Grapes in Karnataka

1638. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Karnataka Government has requested sanction of Agri-Export Zone (AEZ) for Grapes involving a financial implication of Rs. 1875.00 lakhs; and

(b) if so, what is the present position of above proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) A proposal for setting up of an Agri-Export Zone (AEZ) for grapes involving a financial implication of Rs. 22.07 crores has been received from the Karnataka Government.

(b) A peer evaluation of the performance of the existing AEZs, with a view to ascertain the reasons for shortfall in achievement of targets and suggest remedial action, has been undertaken. Setting up of new AEZs would be considered after the evaluation is complete.